

Official Amendment

Serial No. 09/943,078

Docket No. MIO 0083 PA/40509.12

Remarks

Claims 2-11, 14-16, 39, and 45-49 are currently pending, all were rejected in the Final Office Action of December 17, 2003. Claims 7, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 39 have been amended.

Statement of the Substance of the Interview

On March 10, 2004, Kristina E. Swanson, on behalf of the Applicant conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Erik J. Kielin. In the Office Action made Final, all claims were rejected. The Applicant sought to clarify the basis of the rejection and as such, Ms. Swanson and the Examiner briefly discussed the above claims during the interview. The Examiner argued that the claims as written did not overcome the prior art. The Examiner suggested amending the claims to distinguish them from the prior art. The Examiner further indicated that his search would have to be updated in view of any amendments to the claims.

Claim Rejections

Independent claims 7, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 39, as amended, teach forming the gate area and the local interconnect area during a single mask and etch process, wherein the local interconnect area forms a connection to the base substrate. None of the cited prior art references teach or suggest these limitations of the claimed invention. For example, Tsutsumi fails to disclose a connection between the local interconnect area and the base substrate when the gate area and a local interconnect area fabricated simultaneously. Instead, Tsutsumi discloses forming the interconnect area 31 on top of the second insulting film 3 which is not in connection with the base substrate 1 (Figs. 60, 68, 75, 86 and 94). Consequently, Applicant asserts that not all of the elements of claims 7, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 39 are shown or suggested by the cited prior art

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references. Therefore, the Applicant believes the rejections are unsupported by the cited references and requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejections to these claims.

Claims 2-6, 15, and 45- 49 dependent on independent claims 7, 11, 14, 16, and 39 either directly or ultimately. These dependent claims are patentable for the same reasons as presented above with respect to the claims from which they depend. Further, the dependent claims also include additional limitations, which distinguish them from the prior art. Consequently, Applicant also asserts that not all of the elements of claims 2-6, 15, and 45- 49 are shown or suggested by the cited prior art references. Therefore, the Applicant believes the rejections also are unsupported by the cited references and requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejections to these claims.

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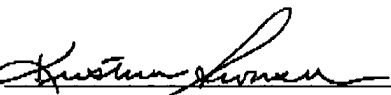
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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the above claims represent allowable subject matter. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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